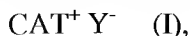


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended): A cationic dye ~~Cationic dyes of the general~~ formula I



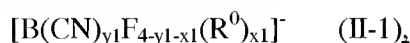
wherein

CAT⁺ is a cation selected from azine, xanthene, polymethine, styryl, azo, tetrazolium, pyrylium, benzopyrylium, thiopyrylium, benzothiopyrylium, thiazine, oxazine, triarylmethane, diarylmethane, acridine, quinoline, isoquinoline, and quaternized azafluorenone dyes,

~~where~~ Y⁻ is an anion selected from ~~the group~~ CAB⁻, FAP⁻, FAB⁻, and Im⁻,

~~where~~

CAB⁻ conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-1)



~~and~~

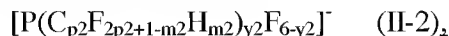
y1 ~~is denotes~~ 1, 2, 3 or 4,

x1 ~~is denotes~~ 0, 1, 2 or 3, ~~and~~

R⁰ ~~is denotes~~ alkyl, aryl, fluorinated alkyl, fluorinated aryl, cycloalkyl or alkyl-aryl, with the condition that R⁰ may be hydrogen if y1 is >2,

~~where~~

FAP⁻ conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-2)



~~with~~

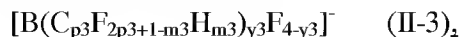
p2 ~~is~~ 1 to 20,

m2 ~~is~~ 0, 1, 2 or 3, ~~and~~

y2 ~~is~~ 1, 2, 3 or 4,

~~where~~

FAB⁻ conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-3)



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with

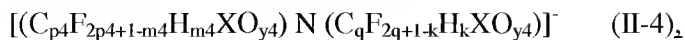
p3 $[[:]]$ is 1 to 20,

m3 $[[:]]$ is 0, 1, 2 or 3, ~~and~~

y3 $[[:]]$ is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

where

Im⁻ conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-4)



~~and the variables~~

X ~~is denotes~~ carbon or sulfur,

p4 ~~is denotes~~ 0 to 20 and $0 \leq m4 \leq 2p4+1$,

q ~~is denotes~~ 0 to 20 and $0 \leq k \leq 2q+1$,

y4 ~~is denotes~~ 1 or 2,

where

m4 ~~is~~ $[[=]]$ 0 if p4 ~~is~~ $[[=]]$ 0, ~~and~~

k ~~is~~ $[[=]]$ 0 if q ~~is~~ $[[=]]$ 0, ~~and~~

the carbon atoms of the alkyl chain of the formula II-4 may be bonded to one another by single bonds, where the resultant alkylene chain may in turn be partially or fully substituted by F;

with the ~~provisø~~ provisos that:

if X is sulfur, y4 ~~is denotes~~ 2, and if X is carbon, y4 ~~is denotes~~ 1 and p4 or q ≥ 1 , ~~and~~

~~and where the carbon atoms of the alkyl chain of the formula II-4 may be bonded to one another by single bonds, where the resultant alkylene chain may in turn be partially or fully substituted by F;~~

and

CAT⁺ is a cation selected from the group of the azine, xanthene, polymethine, styryl, azo, tetrazolium, pyrylium, benzopyrylium, thiopyrylium, benzothiopyrylium, thiazine, oxazine, triarylmethane, diarylmethane, acridine, quinoline, isoquinoline or quaternised azafluorenone dyes,

~~where~~ 3,3'-diethoxyethyl-2,2'-thiadicyanone trifluoromethyltrifluoroborate is excluded.

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2. (Currently Amended): ~~A dye~~ Dyes according to Claim 1, wherein characterised in that CAT^+ is a cation of an azine dye.

3. (Currently Amended): ~~A dye~~ Dyes according to Claim 1, wherein characterised in that CAT^+ is a cation of a xanthene dye.

4. (Currently Amended): ~~A dye~~ Dyes according to Claim 1, wherein characterised in that CAT^+ is a cation of a polymethine dye.

5. (Currently Amended): ~~A dye~~ Dyes according to Claim 1, wherein characterised in that CAT^+ is a cation of a styryl dye.

6. (Currently Amended): ~~A dye~~ Dyes according to Claim 1, wherein characterised in that CAT^+ is a cation of an azo dye.

7. (Currently Amended): ~~A dye~~ Dyes according to Claim 1, wherein characterised in that CAT^+ is a cation of a tetrazolium dye.

8. (Currently Amended): ~~A dye~~ Dyes according to Claim 1, wherein characterised in that CAT^+ is a cation of a pyrylium dye.

9. (Currently Amended): ~~A dye~~ Dyes according to Claim 1, wherein characterised in that CAT^+ is a cation of a benzopyrylium dye.

10. (Currently Amended): ~~A dye~~ Dyes according to Claim 1, wherein characterised in that CAT^+ is a cation of a thiopyrylium dye.

11. (Currently Amended): ~~A dye~~ Dyes according to Claim 1, wherein characterised in that CAT^+ is a cation of a benzothiopyrylium dye.

12. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to Claim 1, wherein ~~character-~~
~~ised in that~~ CAT⁺ is a cation of a thiazine dye.

13. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to Claim 1, wherein ~~character-~~
~~ised in that~~ CAT⁺ is a cation of an oxazine dye.

14. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to Claim 1, wherein ~~character-~~
~~ised in that~~ CAT⁺ is a cation of a triarylmethane dye.

15. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to Claim 1, wherein ~~character-~~
~~ised in that~~ ⁺ is a cation of a diarylmethane dye.

16. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to Claim 1, wherein ~~character-~~
~~ised in that~~ CAT⁺ is a cation of an acridine dye.

17. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to Claim 1, wherein ~~character-~~
~~ised in that~~ CAT⁺ is a cation of a quinoline dye.

18. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to Claim 1, wherein ~~character-~~
~~ised in that~~ CAT⁺ is a cation of an isoquinoline dye.

19. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to Claim 1, wherein ~~character-~~
~~ised in that~~ CAT⁺ is a cation of a quaternary azafluorenone dye.

20. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to Claim 4, wherein ~~character-~~
~~ised in that~~ CAT⁺ is a cation of a cyanine dye.

21. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to Claim 4, wherein ~~character-~~
~~ised in that~~ CAT⁺ is a cation of a carbocyanine dye.

22. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to Claim 4, wherein ~~character-~~

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~~ised in that~~ CAT⁺ is a cation of an azacarbocyanine dye.

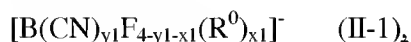
23. (Currently Amended): ~~A dye Dyes~~ according to Claim 4, wherein character-
~~ised in that~~ CAT⁺ is a cation of a diazacarbocyanine dye.

24. (Currently Amended): ~~A dye Dyes~~ according to Claim 4, wherein character-
~~ised in that~~ CAT⁺ is a cation of a triazacarbocyanine dye.

25. (Currently Amended): ~~A dye Dyes~~ according to Claim 4, wherein character-
~~ised in that~~ CAT⁺ is a cation of a hemicyanine dye.

26. (Currently Amended): ~~A dye Dyes~~ according to Claim 4, wherein character-
~~ised in that~~ at CAT⁺ is a cation of a diazahemicyanine dye.

27. (Currently Amended): ~~A dye Dyes~~ according to claim 1, wherein character-
~~ised in that~~ Y⁻ is a cyanoborate of the formula II-1



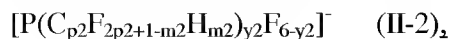
wherein and

y1 ~~is denotes~~ 1, 2, 3 or 4,

x1 ~~is denotes~~ 0, 1, 2 or 3 and

R⁰ ~~is denotes~~ alkyl, aryl, fluorinated alkyl, fluorinated aryl, cycloalkyl or alkyl-
aryl, with the condition that R⁰ may be hydrogen if y1 is >2.

28. (Currently Amended): ~~A dye Dyes~~ according to claim 1, wherein character-
~~ised in that~~ Y⁻ is a fluoroalkylphosphate of the formula II-2



wherein with

p2 is 1 to 20,

m2 is 0, 1, 2 or 3 and

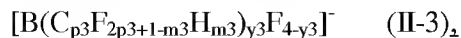
y2 is 1, 2, 3 or 4

p2: 1 to 20,

m2: _____ 0, 1, 2 or 3 and

y2: _____ 1, 2, 3 or 4.

29. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~character-~~
~~ised in that~~ Y⁻ is a fluoroalkylborate of ~~the~~ formula II-3



wherein with

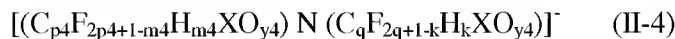
p3 is 1 to 20,

m3 is 0, 1, 2 or 3 and

y3 is 1, 2, 3 or 4;

_____ where 3,3'-diethoxyethyl 2,2'-thiadiecarbocyanine-trifluoromethyltrifluoro-
borate is excluded.

30. (Currently Amended): A dye ~~Dyes~~ according to claim 1, wherein ~~character-~~
~~ised in that~~ Y⁻ is an imide of the formula II-4



wherein and the variables

X is ~~denotes~~ carbon or sulfur,

p4 is ~~denotes~~ 0 to 20 and $0 \leq m4 \leq 2p4+1$,

q is ~~denotes~~ 0 to 20 and $0 \leq k \leq 2q+1$,

y4 is ~~denotes~~ 1 or 2,

m4 is 0 if p4 is 0, and

k is 0 if q is 0,

where m4 = 0 if p4 = 0 and k = 0 if q = 0,

with the proviso that

if X is sulfur, y4 is ~~denotes~~ 2, and if X is carbon, y4 is ~~denotes~~ 1 and p4 or q ≥ 1 ;

and where the carbon atoms of the alkyl chain of the formula II-4 may be bonded to
one another by single bonds, where the resultant alkylene chain may in turn be partially or
fully substituted by F.

31. (Currently Amended): A process ~~Process~~ for the preparation of a cationic dye

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dyes according to claim 1, said process comprising: ~~characterised in that~~

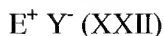
reacting a compound of ~~the general~~ formula XXI



~~where CAT⁺ is a cation selected from the group of the azine, xanthene, polymethine, styryl, azo, tetrazolium, pyrylium, benzopyrylium, thiopyrylium, benzothiopyrylium, thiazine, oxazine, triarylmethane, diarylmethane, acridine, quinoline, isoquinoline or quaternised azafluorenone dyes~~

wherein and A⁻ is denotes Cl⁻, Br⁻, I⁻, BF₄⁻, PF₆⁻, ClO₄⁻, sulfate, tosylate, hydrosulfate, triflate, trifluoroacetate, acetate or oxalate,

~~is reacted~~ with a compound of ~~the general~~ formula XXII



wherein ~~where~~ Y⁻ ~~is an anion selected from the group~~ CAB⁻, FAP⁻, FAB⁻ or Im⁻,

~~where CAB⁻ conforms to the general formula (II-1)~~



~~and~~

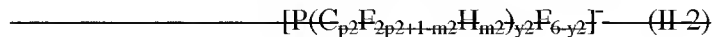
~~y1 denotes 1, 2, 3 or 4,~~

~~x1 denotes 0, 1, 2 or 3 and~~

~~R[⊖] denotes alkyl, aryl, fluorinated alkyl, fluorinated aryl, cycloalkyl or alkylaryl,~~

~~with the condition that R[⊖] may be hydrogen if y1 is >2,~~

~~where FAP⁻ conforms to the general formula (II-2)~~



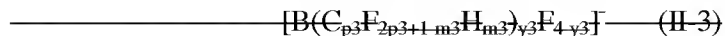
~~with~~

~~p2: 1 to 20,~~

~~m2: 0, 1, 2 or 3 and~~

~~y2: 1, 2, 3 or 4,~~

~~where FAB⁻ conforms to the general formula (II-3)~~



~~with~~

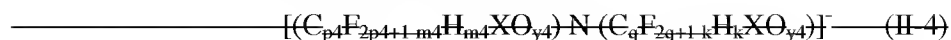
~~p3 1 to 20,~~

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m₃ ——— 0, 1, 2 or 3 and

y₃ ——— 1, 2, 3 or 4,

where Im⁻ conforms to the general formula (II-4)



and the variables

X ——— denotes carbon or sulfur,

p₄ ——— denotes 0 to 20 and 0 ≤ m₄ ≤ 2p₄+1,

q ——— denotes 0 to 20 and 0 ≤ k ≤ 2q+1,

y₄ ——— denotes 1 or 2,

where m₄ = 0 if p₄ = 0 and k = 0 if q = 0,

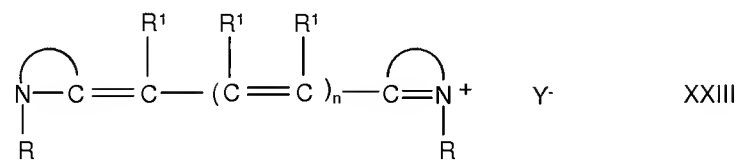
with the proviso

if X is sulfur, y₄ denotes 2 and if X is carbon, y₄ denotes 1 and p₄ or q ≥ 1,

and where the carbon atoms of the alkyl chain of the formula II-4 may be bonded to one another by single bonds, where the resultant alkylene chain may in turn be partially or fully substituted by F, and

E⁺ is a cation selected from cations of the alkali metals, alkaline earth metals or of a metal from group 11 and 12, ammonium, alkylammonium containing C₁-C₄-alkyl, phosphonium, alkylphosphonium containing C₁-C₄-alkyl, and ~~or~~ guanidinium.

32. (Currently Amended): A process ~~Process~~ for the preparation of carbocyanine dye ~~dyes~~ according to Claim 21, where the carbocyanine dye conforms to ~~the~~ formula XXIII



wherein in which

n is ~~denotes~~ 0, 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5,

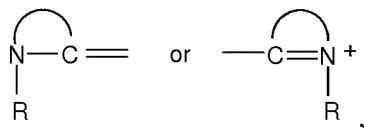
R in each case, independently of one another, is ~~denotes~~ alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl, and

R¹ in each case, independently of one another, is ~~denotes~~ H, Cl, Br, I, alkyl, partially or fully chlorinated alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, Oalkyl, Oaryl, Salkyl, Saryl, NHalkyl, N(alkyl)₂, C(O)H, C(O)alkyl, C(O)aryl, CN, N=N-aryl, P(aryl)₂, NHC(O)alkyl or

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NHC(O)aryl and

the ring system, represented by



is ~~denotes~~ a nitrogen-containing unsaturated mono-, bi- or tricyclic heterocycle having 5 to 13 ring members, which optionally contains ~~may furthermore contain~~ 1, 2 or 3 N and/or 1 or 2 S or O atoms and ~~in which~~ the heterocyclic radical is optionally ~~may be~~ mono- or polysubstituted by Z,

Z is ~~denotes~~ hydrogen, alkyl, NO₂, F, Cl, Br, I, OH, COOH, Oalkyl, SCN, SCF₃, COOalkyl, CH₂-COOalkyl, NH₂, NHalkyl or N(alkyl)₂

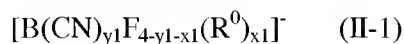
~~and~~

~~where~~

Y⁻ is an anion selected from ~~the group~~ CAB⁻, FAP⁻, FAB and ~~or~~ Im⁻,

~~where~~

CAB⁻ conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-1)



~~and~~

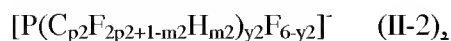
y1 is ~~denotes~~ 1, 2, 3 or 4,

x1 is ~~denotes~~ 0, 1, 2 or 3, and

R⁰ is ~~denotes~~ alkyl, aryl, fluorinated alkyl, fluorinated aryl, cycloalkyl or alkyl-aryl, with the condition that R⁰ may be hydrogen if y1 is >2,

~~where~~

FAP⁻ conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-2)



~~with~~

p2 is 1 to 20,

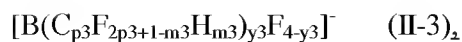
m2 is 0, 1, 2 or 3, and

y2 is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

~~where~~

FAB⁻ conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-3)

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with

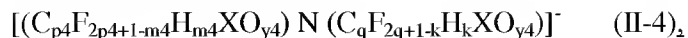
$p3$ is 1 to 20,

$m3$ is 0, 1, 2 or 3, and

$y3$ is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

where

Im^- conforms to the general formula (II-4)



and the variables

X denotes carbon or sulfur,

$p4$ denotes 0 to 20 and $0 \leq m4 \leq 2p4+1$,

q denotes 0 to 20 and $0 \leq k \leq 2q+1$,

$y4$ denotes 1 or 2,

where

$m4$ is 0 if $p4$ is 0, and

k is 0 if q is 0, and

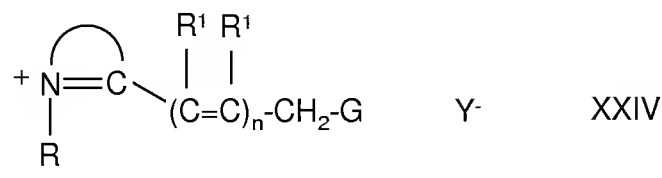
the carbon atoms of the alkyl chain of the formula II-4 may be bonded to one another by single bonds, where the resultant alkylene chain may in turn be partially or fully substituted by F;

with the proviso that

if X is sulfur, $y4$ denotes 2, and if X is carbon, $y4$ denotes 1 and $p4$ or $q \geq 1$,

~~and where the carbon atoms of the alkyl chain of the formula II-4 may be bonded to one another by single bonds, where the resultant alkylene chain may in turn be partially or fully substituted by F;~~

said process comprising utilizing characterised in that use is made of a compound of the formula XXIV



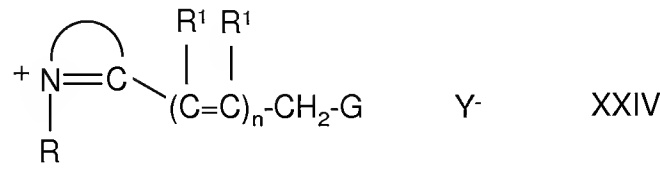
where the ring system, R , R^1 and Y^- have one of the meanings indicated in the case of formula XXIII, and

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n ~~is denotes~~ 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4 and

G ~~is denotes~~ hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, N=C(R)₂, CONHaryl, C(O)aryl or CONHalkyl.

33. (Currently Amended): A compound according to ~~Compounds of the~~ formula XXIV



where

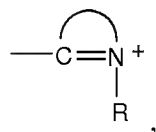
n ~~is denotes~~ 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4,

G ~~is denotes~~ hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, N=C(R)₂, CONHaryl, C(O)aryl or CONHalkyl,

R ~~is denotes~~ alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl,

R¹ ~~is~~ in each case, independently of one another, ~~denotes~~ H, Cl, Br, I, alkyl, partially or fully chlorinated alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, Oalkyl, Oaryl, Salkyl, Saryl, NHalkyl, N(alkyl)₂, C(O)H, C(O)alkyl, C(O)aryl, CN, N=N-aryl, P(aryl)₂, NHC(O)alkyl or NHC(O)aryl, and

the ring system, represented by



~~is denotes~~ a nitrogen-containing unsaturated mono-, bi- or tricyclic heterocycle having 5 to 13 ring members, optionally containing ~~which may furthermore contain~~ 1, 2 or 3 N and/or 1 or 2 S or O atoms and in which the heterocyclic radical is optionally ~~may be~~ mono- or polysubstituted by Z,

Z ~~is denotes~~ hydrogen, alkyl, NO₂, F, Cl, Br, I, OH, COOH, Oalkyl, SCN, SCF₃, COOalkyl, CH₂-COOalkyl, NH₂, NHalkyl or N(alkyl)₂,

and

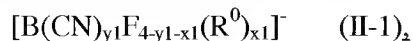
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where

Y⁻ is an anion selected from the group CAB⁻, FAP⁻, FAB⁻ and Im⁻,

where

CAB⁻ conforms to the general formula (II-1)



and

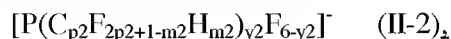
y1 is denotes 1, 2, 3 or 4,

x1 is denotes 0, 1, 2 or 3, and

R⁰ is denotes alkyl, aryl, fluorinated alkyl, fluorinated aryl, cycloalkyl or alkyl-aryl, with the condition that R⁰ may be hydrogen if y1 is >2,

where

FAP⁻ conforms to the general formula (II-2)



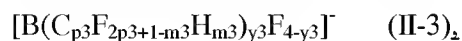
with

p2 is 1 to 20,

m2 is 0, 1, 2 or 3, and

y2 is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

where FAB⁻ conforms to the general formula (II-3)



with

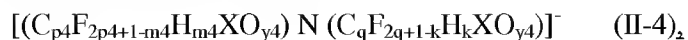
p3 is 1 to 20,

m3 is 0, 1, 2 or 3, and

y3 is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

where

Im⁻ conforms to the general formula (II-4)



and the variables

X is denotes carbon or sulfur,

p4 is denotes 0 to 20 and 0 ≤ m4 ≤ 2p4+1,

q is denotes 0 to 20 and 0 ≤ k ≤ 2q+1,

y4 ~~is~~ denotes 1 or 2,

where

m4 ~~is~~ [[=]] 0 if p4 ~~is~~ [[=]] 0, and

k ~~is~~ [[=]] 0 if q ~~is~~ [[=]] 0,

where the carbon atoms of the alkyl chain of the formula II-4 may be bonded to one another by single bonds, and the resultant alkylene chain may in turn be partially or fully substituted by F;

with the ~~provisø~~ provisos that:

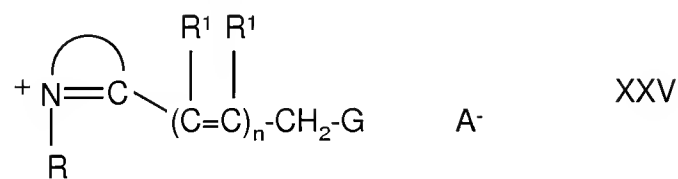
if X is sulfur, y4 ~~is~~ denotes 2, and

if X is carbon, y4 ~~is~~ denotes 1 and p4 or q ≥ 1;

~~and where the carbon atoms of the alkyl chain of the formula II-4 may be bonded to one another by single bonds, where the resultant alkylene chain may in turn be partially or fully substituted by F.~~

34. (Currently Amended): A process ~~Process~~ for the preparation of a compound ~~the compounds of the formula XXIV~~ according to Claim 33, said process comprising reacting ~~characterised in that~~

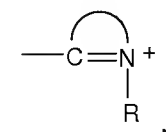
a compound of ~~the~~ formula XXV



in which

A⁻ ~~is~~ denotes Cl⁻, Br⁻, I⁻, BF₄⁻, PF₆⁻, ClO₄⁻, sulfate, tosylate, hydrosulfate, triflate, trifluoroacetate, acetate or oxalate,

the ring system, represented by



is ~~denotes~~ a nitrogen-containing unsaturated mono-, bi- or tricyclic heterocycle having 5 to 13 ring members, which optionally further contains ~~may furthermore contain~~ 1, 2 or 3 N and/or 1 or 2 S or O atoms, and in which the heterocyclic radical is optionally ~~may be~~ mono- or polysubstituted by Z,

Z is ~~denotes~~ hydrogen, alkyl, NO₂, F, Cl, Br, I, OH, COOH, Oalkyl, SCN, SCF₃, COOalkyl, CH₂-COOalkyl, NH₂, NHalkyl, or N(alkyl)₂,

n is ~~denotes~~ 0, 1, 2, 3 or 4,

R is ~~denotes~~ alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl,

R¹ is in each case, independently of one another, ~~denotes~~ H, Cl, Br, I, alkyl, partially or fully chlorinated alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, Oalkyl, Oaryl, Salkyl, Saryl, NHalkyl, N(alkyl)₂, C(O)H, C(O)alkyl, C(O)aryl, CN, N=N-aryl, P(aryl)₂, NHC(O)alkyl, or NHC(O)aryl, and

G is ~~denotes~~ hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, N=C(R)₂, CONHaryl, C(O)aryl, or CONHalkyl,

~~is reacted~~ with a compound of the formula XXVI



in which

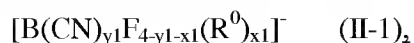
E⁺ is a cation of the alkali metals, alkaline earth metals or of a metal from group 11 and 12, ammonium, alkylammonium containing C₁-C₄-alkyl, phosphonium, alkylphosphonium containing C₁-C₄-alkyl, or guanidinium, and

~~where~~

Y⁻ is an anion selected from ~~the group~~ CAB⁻, FAP⁻, FAB⁻ and ~~or~~ Im⁻,

~~where~~

CAB⁻ conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-1)



and

y1 is ~~denotes~~ 1, 2, 3 or 4,

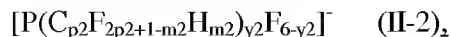
x1 is ~~denotes~~ 0, 1, 2 or 3, and

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R^0 ~~is denotes~~ alkyl, aryl, fluorinated alkyl, fluorinated aryl, cycloalkyl or alkyl-aryl, with the condition that R^0 may be hydrogen if y_1 is >2 ,

~~where~~

FAP⁻ conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-2)



~~with~~

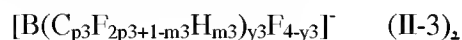
p_2 ~~[[=]]~~ is 1 to 20,

m_2 ~~[[=]]~~ is 0, 1, 2 or 3, ~~and~~

y_2 ~~[[=]]~~ is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

~~where~~

FAB⁻ conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-3)



~~with~~

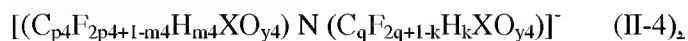
p_3 ~~is~~ 1 to 20,

m_3 ~~is~~ 0, 1, 2 or 3, ~~and~~

y_3 ~~is~~ 1, 2, 3 or 4,

~~where~~

Im⁻ conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-4)



~~and the variables~~

X ~~is denotes~~ carbon or sulfur,

p_4 ~~is denotes~~ 0 to 20 and $0 \leq m_4 \leq 2p_4+1$,

q_4 ~~is denotes~~ 0 to 20 and $0 \leq k_4 \leq 2q_4+1$,

y_4 ~~is denotes~~ 1 or 2,

~~where~~

m_4 ~~is~~ ~~[[=]]~~ 0 if p_4 ~~is~~ ~~[[=]]~~ 0, ~~and~~

k_4 ~~is~~ ~~[[=]]~~ 0 if q_4 ~~is~~ ~~[[=]]~~ 0,

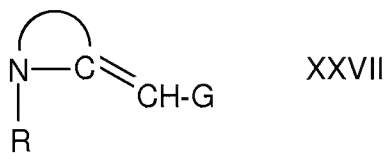
where the carbon atoms of the alkyl chain of the formula II-4 may be bonded to one another by single bonds, and the resultant alkylene chain may in turn be partially or fully substituted by F;

with the ~~provisø~~ provisos that

if X is sulfur, y4 ~~is~~ denotes 2, and if X is carbon, y4 ~~is~~ denotes 1 and p4 or q ≥ 1,
 and where the carbon atoms of the alkyl chain of the formula II-4 may be bonded to
 one another by single bonds, where the resultant alkylene chain may in turn be partially or
 fully substituted by F.

35. (Currently Amended): A process ~~Process~~ for the preparation of a compound
 compounds of the formula XXIV according to Claim 33, with the restriction that n in formula
 XXIV ~~is~~ denotes 0, characterised in that said process comprising:

reacting a compound of the formula XXVII



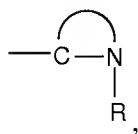
in which

G ~~is~~ denotes hydrogen, alkyl, alkenyl, aryl, heteroaryl, N=C(R)₂, CONHaryl,
 C(O)aryl₁ or CONHalkyl₁ and

R ~~is~~ denotes alkyl, alkenyl, cycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl₁

and

the ring system, represented by



is ~~denotes~~ a nitrogen-containing unsaturated mono-, bi- or tricyclic heterocycle having
 5 to 13 ring members, which optionally further contains ~~may furthermore contain~~ 1, 2 or 3 N
 and/or 1 or 2 S or O atoms₁ and in which the heterocyclic radical is optionally ~~may be~~ mono-
 or polysubstituted by Z,

Z ~~is~~ denotes hydrogen, alkyl, NO₂, F, Cl, Br, I, OH, COOH, Oalkyl, SCN, SCF₃,
 COOalkyl, CH₂-COOalkyl, NH₂, NHalkyl₁ or N(alkyl)₂,

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~~is reacted~~

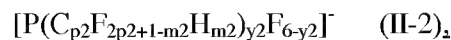
with a compound HY,

where

Y⁻ is an anion selected from ~~the group~~ FAP⁻, FAB⁻ and ~~or~~ Im⁻,

~~where~~

FAP⁻ conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-2)



~~with~~

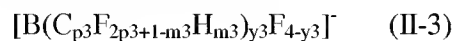
p2 is 1 to 20,

m2 is 0, 1, 2 or 3, ~~and~~

y2 is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

~~where~~

FAB⁻ conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-3)



~~with~~

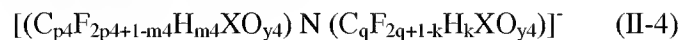
p3 is 1 to 20,

m3 is 0, 1, 2 or 3, ~~and~~

y3 is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

~~where~~

Im⁻ conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-4)



~~and the variables~~

X is ~~denotes~~ carbon or sulfur,

p4 is ~~denotes~~ 0 to 20 and $0 \leq m4 \leq 2p4+1$,

q is ~~denotes~~ 0 to 20 and $0 \leq k \leq 2q+1$,

y4 is ~~denotes~~ 1 or 2,

~~where~~

m4 is ~~is~~ 0 if p4 is ~~is~~ 0, and

k is ~~is~~ 0 if q is ~~is~~ 0,

where the carbon atoms of the alkyl chain of the formula II-4 may be bonded to one

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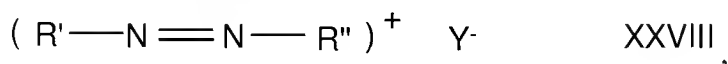
another by single bonds, and the resultant alkylene chain may in turn be partially or fully substituted by F;

with the ~~proviso~~ provisos that

if X is sulfur, y4 is ~~denotes~~ 2, and if X is carbon, y4 is ~~denotes~~ 1 and p4 or q ≥ 1;

~~and where the carbon atoms of the alkyl chain of the formula II-4 may be bonded to one another by single bonds, where the resultant alkylene chain may in turn be partially or fully substituted by F.~~

36. (Currently Amended): A process ~~Process~~ for the preparation of an azo dyes according to Claim 6, ~~where the~~ wherein said azo dye conforms to ~~the~~ formula XXVIII



where

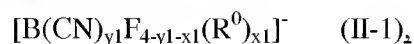
R' and R'' are each ~~denote~~ aryl or heteroaryl and one of the two aromatic nuclei is positively charged, ~~and~~

~~where~~

Y⁻ is an anion selected from ~~the group~~ CAB⁻, FAP⁻, FAB⁻ and ~~or~~ Im⁻,

~~where~~

CAB⁻ conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-1)



~~and~~

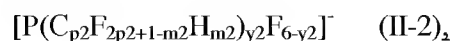
y1 is ~~denotes~~ 1, 2, 3 or 4,

x1 is ~~denotes~~ 0, 1, 2 or 3 and

R⁰ is ~~denotes~~ alkyl, aryl, fluorinated alkyl, fluorinated aryl, cycloalkyl or alkyl-aryl, with the condition that R⁰ may be hydrogen if y1 is >2,

~~where~~

FAP⁻ conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-2)



~~with~~

p2 is 1 to 20,

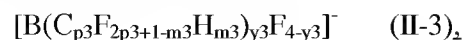
m2 is 0, 1, 2 or 3, ~~and~~

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y₂ is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

where

FAB⁻ conforms to the general formula (II-3)



with

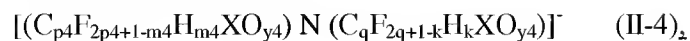
p₃ is 1 to 20,

m₃ is 0, 1, 2 or 3, and

y₃ is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

where

Im⁻ conforms to the general formula (II-4)



and the variables

X is denotes carbon or sulfur,

p₄ is denotes 0 to 20 and $0 \leq m_4 \leq 2p_4 + 1$,

q is denotes 0 to 20 and $0 \leq k \leq 2q + 1$,

y₄ is denotes 1 or 2,

where

m₄ is 0 if p₄ is 0, and

k is 0 if q is 0,

where the carbon atoms of the alkyl chain of the formula II-4 may be bonded to one another by single bonds, and the resultant alkylene chain may in turn be partially or fully substituted by F,

said process comprising reacting characterised in that a compound of the formula XXIX



where R' and Y⁻ has one of the meaning indicated in the case of formula XXVIII,

is reacted

with an the aromatic cyclic or heterocyclic compound R''.

37. (Currently Amended): A compound according to ~~Compounds of the~~ formula XXIX



in which

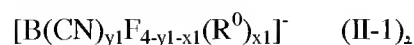
R' ~~is~~ denotes aryl or heteroaryl, ~~and~~

~~where~~

Y^- is an anion selected from ~~the group~~ CAB^- , FAP^- , FAB^- and ~~or~~ Im^- ,

~~where~~

CAB^- conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-1)



~~and~~

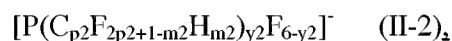
$y1$ ~~is~~ denotes 1, 2, 3 or 4,

$x1$ ~~is~~ denotes 0, 1, 2 or 3, ~~and~~

R^0 ~~is~~ denotes alkyl, aryl, fluorinated alkyl, fluorinated aryl, cycloalkyl or alkyl-aryl, with the condition that R^0 may be hydrogen if $y1$ is >2 ,

~~where~~

FAP^- conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-2)



~~with~~

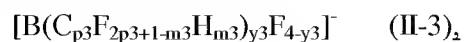
$p2$ ~~is~~ is 1 to 20,

$m2$ ~~is~~ is 0, 1, 2 or 3, ~~and~~

$y2$ ~~is~~ is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

~~where~~

FAB^- conforms to ~~the general~~ formula (II-3)



~~with~~

$p3$ ~~is~~ is 1 to 20,

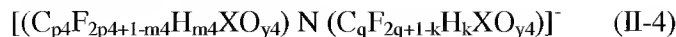
$m3$ ~~is~~ is 0, 1, 2 or 3, ~~and~~

$y3$ ~~is~~ is 1, 2, 3 or 4,

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where

Im⁻ conforms to the general formula (II-4)



and the variables

X is denotes carbon or sulfur,

p4 is denotes 0 to 20 and $0 \leq m4 \leq 2p4+1$,

q is denotes 0 to 20 and $0 \leq k \leq 2q+1$,

y4 is denotes 1 or 2,

where

m4 is $[[=]]$ 0 if p4 is $[[=]]$ 0, and

k is $[[=]]$ 0 if q is $[[=]]$ 0,

where the carbon atoms of the alkyl chain of the formulae II-4 may be bonded to one another by single bonds, and wherein the resultant alkylene chain may in turn be partially or fully substituted by F;

with the ~~provis~~ provisos that

if X is sulfur, y4 is denotes 2, and if X is carbon, y4 is denotes 1 and p4 or q ≥ 1 ;

~~and where the carbon atoms of the alkyl chain of the formulae II-4 may be bonded to one another by single bonds, where the resultant alkylene chain may in turn be partially or fully substituted by F.~~

38. (Currently Amended): In a method of Use of the dyes according to claim 1 for colouring plastics and plastic fibres, preparing for the preparation of flexographic printing inks, as ball-point pen pastes, or as stamp ink, for colouring leather and paper, in preparing cosmetic formulations in the paints industry, or coloring in biochemistry, biology, medicine, analytics or electronics, the improvement wherein a dye according to claim 1 is used for coloring.

39. (Currently Amended): In a method of using a dye Use of the dyes according to claim 1 in data acquisition systems, reprography, in ink microfilters, in photogalvanics, laser technology or the photo industry, the improvement wherein said dye is a dye according to

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claim 1.

40. (Currently Amended): In a method of using a dye ~~Use of the dyes according to claim 1~~ for CD recorders, DVD recorders (DVD+R, DVD+RW), Bluray disc (BD-ROM, BD-R, BD-RE), computer to plate, laser filters, laser marking or photopolymerisation, the improvement wherein said dye is a dye according to claim 1.

41. (New): A dye according to Claim 28, wherein CAT⁺ is a cation of a polymethine dye.

42. (New): A dye according to Claim 28, wherein p2 is 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8.

43. (New): A dye according to Claim 28, wherein p2 is 2, 3 or 4.

44. (New): A dye according to Claim 28, wherein Y⁻ is PF₃(C₂F₅)₃, PF₃(C₄F₉)₃, PF₃(C₃F₇)₃ or PF₄(C₂F₅)₂.